



ACS *newsletter*

October 2014

U.S. Embassy, Manila

1201 Roxas Boulevard

Ermita, Manila

Philippines 1000

Tel: (632) 301-2000

Website: <http://manila.usembassy.gov>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/manila.usembassy>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/usembassymanila>

Blog: <http://blogs.usembassy.gov/philippines/>



New Parents! Obtaining an exit permit after the issuance of your child's Consular Report of Birth Abroad and First U.S. Passport...

As a reminder, you will need to visit or contact the **ALIEN REGISTRATION DIVISION OF THE PHILIPPINE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI)**, TO OBTAIN AN **EMIGRATION CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC)**, ALSO **KNOWN AS EXIT PERMIT**, at least **TWO WEEKS** prior to your scheduled departure from the Philippines.

**ALIEN
REGISTRATION
PROJECT (ARP)**

**MANDATORY
FOR
FOREIGNERS**

**SEE PAGE 5 FOR
DETAILS**



For additional information, you may contact the Philippine Bureau of Immigration at (02) 465-2400 or visit their website: <http://immigration.gov.ph/>



A Friendly reminder from ACS: Check Your Passport Today

Renew your passport at least **90 days prior to expiration!**

Most countries require a minimum passport validity of six months before they will issue a visa or allow entry to their country. **NOTE:** It can take **2-3 weeks** to process routine

tourist passport applications so please plan your travel well in advance.

Not all applicants are required to apply in person. We encourage you to follow all instructions on our website (<http://manila.usembassy.gov/>) to find out if you are required to book an online appointment and to prepare your application. For those required to book an appointment, please print the passport checklist and bring all the requirements with you on the day of your appointment to avoid processing delays. Please arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time.



Manila (MNL)
U.S. Embassy Manila
American Citizen Services
Passport Appointments



ACS Appointment System - Instructions

U.S. CITIZENS SERVICES

Appointment System

1. To make an appointment, please click here.
2. To cancel an appointment, please click here.



In Case of Emergency outside business hours, U.S. citizens may reach the Embassy Duty officer through the Embassy operator at (63)(2) 301-2000.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSURES at U.S. Embassy Manila

HOLIDAY	LEGAL DATE	CLOSING DATE
U.S. Columbus Day	Monday, October 13	Monday, October 13
U.S. Veterans Day	Tuesday, November 11	Tuesday, November 11
U.S. Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 27	Thursday, November 27
Christmas Day	Thursday, December 25	Thursday, December 25-26
Rizal Day	Thursday, December 30	Thursday, December 30
Last Day of the Year	Wednesday, December 31	Wednesday, December 31
New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1-2	Thursday, January 1-2

manila.usembassy.gov



U.S. citizens residing in the Philippines, who are planning to move to the United States along with qualifying immediate relatives (spouses, children, and parents), are reminded that they are permitted to file the necessary immigration petitions in person with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. More information about petitioning for immediate relatives can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-through-family/green-card-immediate-relative-us-citizen>. Petitioners planning on filing a petition with USCIS in Manila are strongly recommended to make an appointment online at <https://infopass.uscis.gov/>.

USCIS customers requiring assistance, or who have other questions about our services, are encouraged to peruse the USCIS website (www.uscis.gov), visit the USCIS Manila Field Office website (<http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/philippines-manila-field-office>), send an email inquiry to MPHInquiry.CIS@uscis.dhs.gov, or call us at (63)(2) 301-2000, extension 2224.



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

Questions and Answers on Ebola

What is Ebola?

Ebola virus is the cause of a viral hemorrhagic fever disease. Symptoms include: fever, headache, joint and muscle aches, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, lack of appetite, and abnormal bleeding. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola virus though 8-10 days is most common.

How is Ebola transmitted?

Ebola is transmitted through direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected symptomatic person or through exposure to objects (such as needles) that have been contaminated with infected secretions.

Can Ebola be transmitted through the air?

No. Ebola is not a respiratory disease like the flu, so it is not transmitted through the air.

Can I get Ebola from contaminated food or water?

No. Ebola is not a food-borne illness. It is not a water-borne illness.

Can I get Ebola from a person who is infected but doesn't have any symptoms?

No. Individuals who are not symptomatic are not contagious. In order for the virus to be transmitted, an individual would have to have direct contact with an individual who is experiencing symptoms.

What is being done to prevent ill passengers in West Africa from getting on a plane?

CDC is assisting with active screening and education efforts on the ground in West Africa to prevent sick travelers from getting on planes. In addition, airports in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea are screening all outbound passengers for Ebola symptoms, including fever, and passengers are required to respond to a healthcare questionnaire. CDC is also surging support in the region by deploying 50 additional workers to help build capacity on the ground.





VA HEALTH CARE

Beneficiary Travel

TRAVEL MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT CHANGE

The VA Manila Outpatient Clinic is changing the beneficiary travel mileage reimbursement program from a cash reimbursement process to an electronic funds transfer (EFT) process (direct deposit to your bank account).

Permanent Implementation September 9, 2014

If you do not receive direct deposit already for your VA disability payments, you will need to complete a direct deposit enrollment form. Forms are available at the travel window. If you are currently not enrolled in direct deposit for your VA disability checks, you should move to direct deposit for your recurring payments as well.

Beneficiary Travel Telephone Numbers: (02) 318-8388 or (02) 318-8341

Announcing Phase Out of Visa Pages for U.S. Passports

For cost and security reasons, the U.S. Department of State has begun phasing out the option of additional visa pages for U.S. passports. Beginning October 1, 2014, all embassies worldwide will issue only 52-page passport books for full validity passports.

The thinner 28-page book option will no longer be available. Requests for additional visa pages will be accepted for existing passports through December 31, 2015.

Starting January 1, 2016, applicants who need extra pages will need to apply to renew their passports and be issued the standard 52-page book. Instructions on how to renew your passport or apply for visa pages for your existing passport can be found on our website: <http://manila.usembassy.gov/service/passports/html>.

ACS Manila would like to encourage all Americans residing in or visiting the Philippines to register using the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). By connecting with us on STEP, we will be able to better assist you in the case of an emergency, such as loss or theft of your passport while you are abroad.

We also assist U.S. citizens in other emergency situations, such as natural disasters.

For general travel information,
go to: <http://www.travel.state.gov>

Note from ACS

